

CIRCUIT BREAKER INCORPORATING FAULT LOCKOUT PROTECTION

Abstract of Disclosure

A method of protecting multiple feeder circuits fed from a shared electrical distribution system is provided. The method includes providing a bypass line, providing bypass switches in the bypass line, providing a fault lockout protection controller coupled to the bypass line. The bypass line bypasses separable circuit breaker contacts in each of the feeder circuits between a load side and a line side of the electrical distribution system. The bypass switches selectively couple each of the feeder circuits to the bypass line. The method further includes controlling the fault lockout protection controller to detect the existence of a fault condition on the load side of the feeder circuit selectively coupled to the bypass line prior to closing the separable circuit breaker contacts of the feeder circuit; and controlling the fault lockout protection controller to prevent closure of the separable circuit breaker contacts upon detection of the fault condition.